

CLAIMS LIST

Claims 1 to 9 cancelled

10. (Currently amended) Carton gripper apparatus for gripping groups of cartons for packing said groups into boxes, and comprising;

a gripper body member;

a first and a second pair of non-rotatable slide rods supported on said gripper body member;

a first pair of clamp bars slideable along said first pair of said slide rods;

a second pair of clamp bars slideable along said second pair of said slide rods, relative to said first pair of clamp bars;

bearing openings in said clamp bars, and wherein said slide rods extend through respective said bearing openings thereby to permit said sliding of said clamp bars along respective said pairs of said slide rods;

fastening means securing said first pair of clamp bars to said second pair of slide rods;

fastening means securing said second pair of clamp bars to said first pair of slide rods;

and,

means for moving said first pair of slide rods in one direction while simultaneously moving said second pair of slide rods in the opposite direction to said first pair of slide rods, thereby sliding said first pair of clamp bars along said first pair of slide rods, and sliding said second pair of clamp bars along said second pair of slide rods, and thereby moving said first and second pairs of clamp bars towards one another into a gripping position and away from one another into a releasing position.

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Previously presented) Carton gripper apparatus for gripping groups of cartons for packing as claimed in claim 10 and wherein said first pair of clamp bars are secured by screw means to said second pair of said slide rods, and wherein

second pair of said clamp bars are secured to said first pair of said slide rods by screw means said screw means thereby preventing sliding of respective said pairs of clamp bars relative to respective said slide bars to which they are secured.

13. (Previously presented) Carton gripper apparatus for gripping groups of cartons for packing as claimed in claim 12 and wherein each of said first pair of slide rods are moveable to move said second pair of clamp bars, and wherein each of said second pair of slide rods are moveable to move said first pair of clamp bars.

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14. (Previously presented) Carton gripper apparatus for gripping groups of cartons for packing as claimed in claim 13 and including a head plate, and two side walls depending downwardly therefrom, slide openings in said side walls for receiving said first and second pairs of slide rods therethrough, and power means supported by said head plate and operatively connected to respective first and second pairs of clamp bars.

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15. (Previously presented) Carton gripper apparatus for gripping groups of cartons for packing as claimed in claim 14 and including rods extending from said power means, and being connected to said first and second pairs of clamp bars, and being operable to move said first and said second pairs simultaneously towards or away from one another.

Claims 16 to 20 cancelled.

Claim 21 ((Previously presented) Carton gripper apparatus for gripping groups of cartons for packing as claimed in claim 10 and wherein said first pair of clamp bars comprises an end clamp bar and an intermediate clamp bar, wherein said end

clamp bar in said first pair is secured to said second pair of said slide rods, and wherein said second pair of said clamp bars comprises an ~~and~~ end clamp bar and an intermediate clamp bar wherein said end clamp bar in said second pair is secured to said first pair of said slide rods.

Claim 22 (Previously presented) Carton gripper apparatus for gripping groups of cartons for packing as claimed in claim 21 and including first and second frame plates connected to respective said intermediate clamp bars in respective first and second pairs.

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Claim 23 (Previously presented) Carton gripper apparatus for gripping groups of cartons for packing as claimed in claim 22 and including rods extending from said power means, and being connected to said first and second frame plates and being operable to procure relative movement of said first and said second pairs of clamp bars simultaneously towards or away from one another.

Claim 24 (Previously presented) Carton gripper apparatus for gripping groups of cartons for packing as claimed in claim 21 and including third and fourth pairs of said clamp bars.

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Claim 25 (Previously presented) Carton gripper apparatus for gripping groups of cartons for packing as claimed in claim 21 and including fastening devices extending between said first clamp bars and said second pair of slide rods, and fastening devices extending between said second clamp bars and said first pair of slide rods.